

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-3, 7 and 11 were rejected by the Examiner and claims 4-6, 8-10 and 12 were objected to. Claims 13-25 were withdrawn by the applicant in the previous response. Claims 1- 25 remain pending after this response.

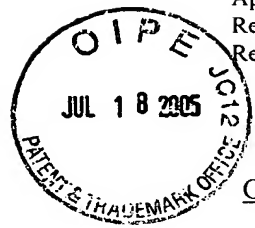
35 U.S.C. §102(b) (Claims 1, 2, 3, 7 and 11)

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 3, 7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the inventor's issued patent U.S. Patent No. 6,242,959 ("the '959 patent"). The applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Regarding claim 1, the inventor respectfully asserts that the '959 patent does not teach measuring delay spacings between a plurality of phase delayed clock signal edges within a reference clock period. (Claim 1) The Examiner refers the applicant to Col. 1, lines 40-44, in support of such a teaching. However, the '959 patent uses a comparator to compare "any discrepancies between the desired reference delay period" (that is insulated from environmentally induced changes) and "the actual delay produced by the dummy PDC." (Col. 2, lines 60-67; Col. 1, lines 52-53) The claimed technique is different. The '959 patent "compares the actual delay produced by the dummy PDC with a reference delay at reference input 14 that is insensitive to changes in the environment" (Col. 2, lines 60-62) rather than measuring delay spacings between clock signal edges within a reference clock period. The applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim 1 rejection based on this point.

Additionally, assuming *arguendo* that the reference and dummy clock signal edges are edges within a reference clock period, the measured delay is used directly "as a correction input to the dummy PDC in a negative feedback loop that changes the nominal delay of the dummy PDC to compensate for the detected error and reduce it to zero." (Col. 3, lines 2-5) The '959 patent does not teach "calculating desired delay spacings from said delay spacings" and does not calculate ideal signal edges from said desired delay spacings. (Claim 1) Based on these points, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 102(b) rejection of this claim 1.

Claims 2, 3, 7 and 11 depend from independent claim 1 and contain each of claim 1's limitations. For at least the reasons stated above for claim 1, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 3, 7 and 11.



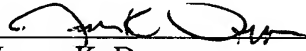
Objections (Claims 4-6, 8-10 and 12)

The Examiner objects to claims 4-6, 8-10 and 12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claims 1 and 11). For at least the reasons stated above for claims 1 and 11, the applicant respectfully asserts that those claims are not anticipated by the '959 patents. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 4-6, 8-10 and 12.

The applicant believes that claims 1-12 are now in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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